

THE BAPTIST

PEACE

Miss. Baptists gather for annual session

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Messengers to the 175th annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 26-27 at First Church, Jackson, elected Gary Richardson, pastor of North Oxford Church, Oxford, to a second one-year term as president.

Paul Crowley, pastor of Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, was elevated to first vice-president after serving the previous year as second vice president. He replaced Rickey Blythe, pastor of First Church, New Albany. Chris Aldridge, pastor of Freedonia Church, New Albany, was elected to replace Crowley as second vice-president.

Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, was reelected as recording secretary. Jerry Bingham, missions director for Benton-Tippah Association, was reelected as assistant recording secretary.

There was no opposition in any of the races, and all officers were elected by acclamation.

The theme for the annual session was Covering Mississippi in Prayer. The official registered count was 1,025 messengers.

Messengers approved without discussion and by acclamation a 2011 Mississippi Cooperative Program budget of \$33,001,945, a decrease of 3.2% (\$1,092,377) from the 2010 budget of \$34,094,322.

The amount of the 2011 budget going to Southern Baptist causes includes a one-quarter percent increase to 35 1/4%. The dollar amount, \$11,633,185, is a 2.55% (\$299,828) decrease from last year's budget amount that reflects the lower overall budget for 2011.

Weldon Aultman, chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board budget committee and a member of First Church, Indianola, told messengers the committee believed the budget was prudent given the struggling national and state economies.

For the second consecutive year, there were no resolutions or motions from the floor. Messengers approved two resolutions submitted by the resolutions committee. The

first resolution expressed appreciation to First Church, Jackson, for hosting the annual session; to the speakers, singers and instrumentalists who led in worship; to Mississippi Baptist Convention President Gary Richardson; and to officers, board members, trustees, committee members, and volunteers who have "served the convention faithfully."

The second resolution called on Mississippi Baptists to pray for the Covering Mississippi in Prayer campaign that begins in January 2011. The campaign, which will be announced in The Baptist Record in coming weeks, involves prayer rallies in every county in Mississippi. The resolution seeks prayer "for a great spiritual awakening in our state, in our nation, and in our world."

Jeff Clark, pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg, delivered the convention sermon from Ezekiel 37. Gary Richardson delivered the president's address from Acts 4. Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Church, Woodstock, Ga., and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, delivered the convention's closing message.

Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in Nashville, presented the Bible Treasures series of devotionals.

Leading praise and worship were:

- Tom Wilson, minister of music at North Oxford Church, Oxford, along with the church's Praise Team and Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra.

- Mississippi Singing Churchmen conducted by Milfred Valentine, minister of music at Prentiss Church, Prentiss.

- Daniel Williamson, minister of music at First Church, Hattiesburg, along with the church's Praise Ensemble.

- Mississippi Baptist Convention Orchestra conducted by David Young, consultant for the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

- Metro Jackson Combined Choirs coordinated by Larry Black, interim minister of music at First Church, Richland, and minister of music emeritus at First Church, Jackson.

- Paid in Full trio from New Albany.

- P.J. Scott, chairman of the time, place, and preacher committee and interim pastor of First Church, Batesville, announced that James Lewis, pastor of DeSoto Hills Church in Southaven, will bring the convention sermon at the 2011 annual session November 1-2 at First Church, Jackson. Matt Buckles, pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, will serve as alternate.



MBC OFFICERS – Newly-elected officers of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, elected during the 175 annual session of the convention last week in Jackson, include (from left) Jerry Bingham, assistant recording secretary, missions director for Benton-Tippah Association in Ripley; Michael Weeks, recording secretary, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch; Gary Richardson, president, pastor of North Oxford Church, Oxford; Paul Crowley, first vice-president, pastor of Woolmarket Church, Biloxi; and Chris Aldridge, second vice-president, pastor of Freedonia Church, New Albany. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

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Iran pastor won't recant, sentenced to death

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) is urging U.S. President Barack Obama to pressure Iran to release a Christian pastor facing a death sentence.

Youcef Nadarkhani, a pastor in Northern Iran, reportedly has been tried and informed verbally he will be executed for committing apostasy under Iran's militant Islamic regime, according to the USCIRF.

In an attempt to apply more pressure to Nadarkhani to recant his confession of Christ, delivery of a written verdict to the pastor has been delayed, according to Present Truth Ministries, which aids the persecuted church overseas.

Nadarkhani will have 20 days to appeal to Iran's Supreme Court after he receives a verdict in writing. Present Truth reported Oct. 23.

Authorities arrested Nadarkhani in October 2009 after he questioned the Muslim domination of religious instruction in the school attended by his children, USCIRF reported. He argued Iran's constitution allows parents to train children in the Christian faith.



Nadarkhani's wife, Fatemeh Passandideh, also was charged with apostasy but she was released this month after four months of imprisonment, according to the USCIRF report which is based on sources in Iran and the U.S. government.

"This case is further evidence that

Nadarkhani

The U.S. State Department has named Iran as one of eight "countries of particular concern," a designation reserved for the world's worst violators of religious freedom.

Iran's regime has abused human rights for more than three decades and its weak record on religious liberty has declined further in the last year,

USCIRF has reported. This has been true especially in regard to minorities such as Baha'is, Christians, and Sufi Muslims.

"[P]hysical attacks, harassment, detention, arrests, and imprisonment [have] intensified," according to the commission. "Even the recognized non-Muslim religious minorities — Jews, Armenians, Assyrian Christians, and Zoroastrians — protected under Iran's constitution faced increasing discrimination and repression."

Leo said, "This pattern of arrest and harassment of religious minorities, coupled with increasing inflammatory

rhetoric from President [Mahmoud] Ahmadinejad and other leaders, has not been seen since the early years of the Iranian revolution."

Ahmadinejad has been especially provocative toward Israel, denying the Holocaust and threatening to destroy the Jewish state.

USCIRF commended Obama after he issued sanctions Sept. 29 against Iranian government leaders involved in violations of religious freedom and other human rights. The U.S. president's executive order authorized sanctions against eight senior officials in Iran's Islamic regime who, based on credible evidence, participated in "serious human rights abuses" before or during that country's 2009 presidential election.

Obama's order means those cited will be subject to economic and visa penalties. The sanctions were the first under the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act, which became law in July.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, is a presidential appointee to USCIRF.

Abortion clinics close over funding dispute, suspension

WASHINGTON (BP) — Abortion clinics in two states have closed, according to media reports. Planned Parenthood of Southern New Jersey shut down its Cherry Hill family planning clinic Sept. 21 in a dispute over state funding, while a Maryland abortion clinic is closing after its operator's medical license was suspended.

In New Jersey, Democrats in the state Senate failed to override Republican Gov. Chris Christie's veto of a bill that would have restored \$7.5 million to family planning clinics, according to the Associated Press.

Christie, who was elected last year, faced a projected deficit of nearly \$11 billion when he took office. In his first budget, he proposed the elimination of all funds for the state's family planning program. As a result, state money through the program will not go to Planned Parenthood, which operates family planning clinics.

In Maryland, staff members at Gynecare Center in Severna Park acknowledged Sept. 23 that the facility was shutting down, according to LifeSiteNews.com. Pro-life advocates said they are uncertain if the clinic is permanently closed or if it will reopen if its embattled operator, Romeo Ferrer, 69, finds another doctor to perform abortions.

The Maryland Board of Physicians suspended Ferrer's medical license Sept. 8 as a result of his failure to care properly for a 21-year-old woman

who died after he performed an abortion on her in 2006. She was 16 weeks pregnant. The board found that Ferrer gave her too much anesthesia and failed to monitor her condition according to his own policy.

In other news related to the abortion issue:

- Abortion doctor George Shepard Jr., 88, has lost his medical license in a second state. The Delaware Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline suspended the license of George Shepard Jr., on Oct. 1, according to The Wilmington (Del.) News Journal.

The Maryland Board of Physicians had suspended Shepard's license in its state, it was reported Sept. 3.

The Maryland board charged Shepard with unprofessional conduct and with aiding abortion clinic operator Steve Brigham in defying credentialing mandates. Shepard serves as part-time medical director of Brigham's Maryland clinics. Delaware officials began investigating Shepard after Maryland took action, The News Journal reported.

The president of Delaware's Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline, Raymond Moore Sr., stated, "It is important that Delaware take action in conjunction with Maryland to ensure Dr. Shepard does not subject Delawareans to unsafe practices."

- Abortion clinics in Texas must be licensed to dispense the abortion drug RU 486 and may not use prerecorded telephone

messages to fulfill the state's informed consent law, Attorney General Greg Abbott has ruled.

Responding to a request from State Rep. Frank Corte, R-San Antonio, Abbott issued two written opinions Sept. 24 that pro-life advocates hailed as victories in protecting the safety of pregnant women.

Regarding the use of an abortion drug, such as RU 486, the attorney general said Texas law requires licensure of abortion facilities and the prescription or provision of a drug to terminate a pregnancy "may be an abortion" under state law.

Abbott acknowledged the text of the informed consent law is unclear but said "it is more likely than not that a court would construe the phrase 'orally by telephone or in person' to mean that an abortion

facility may not use either a pre-recorded telephone message or a one way conference call" to provide the necessary information 24 hours before an abortion. The information includes the medical risks of abortion.

- The parents of a 16-year-old in Texas have agreed to a court order not to coerce their daughter to abort her child, who is at 14 weeks gestation, the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) reported.

The girl's mother took her to two different Austin abortion clinics, including Planned Parenthood of the Texas Capital Region, in an effort to make her undergo the lethal procedure. Neither the girl, who was not identified, nor the baby's father wants an abortion but her parents had continued to say they would force her to have one.

Looking back

10 years ago

Acteens in Mississippi kick off a statewide ministry called Crosswalk at their state convention. The project involves moving a six foot cross throughout the state, from one Acteens group or youth group to another while conducting ministry projects.

20 years ago

While preaching a revival in Japan as part of a 40-team Southern Baptist Crusade effort, First Church, Quitman, pastor Rex Yancey invites members of two Japanese churches to visit him in America. Six members of those churches take him up on his offer, marveling at all the "open land" across Mississippi.

50 years ago

Mississippi College celebrates Homecoming Day by featuring the dedication of the new B.C. Rogers Student Center building.



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THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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It was one of those truly touching animal rescue stories in which we humans find such reassurance of our humanity. For some unknown reason, dozens of rough-tooth dolphins beached themselves around the Florida Keys in early March.

There was a great stirring in the national news media over the plight of these poor creatures. Nearly half of them died, and two dozen other sickly dolphins were attended at the Marine Mammal Conservancy in Key Largo, Florida. A call went out for volunteers to care for the remaining dolphins in around-the-clock shifts, and conservancy officials asked for urgently needed special care items such as Pedialyte, Gentamycin, multivitamins, gallon-size Zip-Loc bags, and gift certificates from Home Depot.

In addition to the stories pleading for volunteers and supplies, one widely-circulated report even came with an Associated Press photo of Marine Mammal Conservancy officials inserting a feeding tube into one of the weakest dolphins.

A feeding tube! Would that we had had so much sympathy for people like Terri Schiavo, the brain-damaged Florida woman who died a horrible death after her life-sustaining feeding tube was removed and she starved/dehydrated to death.

What's wrong with this picture? The sicker a dolphin becomes, the more desperately we try to save its life. The sicker a human becomes, the swifter we try to take his/her life from them. A dying dolphin

"WELL, YOU COULD SAY 'AMEN' OR
'PREACH IT, BROTHER'— BUT MOST
PEOPLE DON'T SAY ANYTHING."



receives sustenance at all costs, while a dying human is denied the same treatment and sentenced to an agonizing death. A defenseless dolphin is saved, while a defenseless human is killed.

To all thinking people of any age group — Christian or not — this surely makes no sense. Is all innocent life precious, or is such a designation reserved only for animals lower than humans? If the latter is indeed the case, why? It is insane that a society that so passionately seeks to protect rare frogs, 500-year-old trees, and wetlands would so willingly turn its back on innocent human life.

Sadly, we live in age that can no longer discern the difference between good and evil, and in many cases proclaims the goodness of evil. Equally as sad, we live in an age when the first resort to any inconvenient situation, like that of Terri Schiavo, is death — but only for the most innocent and defenseless humans involved.

Is your 15-year-old daughter embarrassingly pregnant out of wedlock? Death to the baby! Is your Alzheimer's-stricken mother inconveniently keeping you from living your life as you please? Death to the elderly! How about your father, a stroke victim languishing in a nursing home and inconsiderately eating up your inheritance day by day? Death to the infirm!

In some parts of the world — the Netherlands, for instance — ailing humans can be put to sleep for no other reason than their scarce hospital bed is needed by someone else. In some authoritarian countries, a bucket of water rests at the foot of every delivery room table so that unwanted or "illegal" babies can be drowned immediately. In Texas, a special hospital bioethics committee can decide when it's time to pull the plug on a loved one without considering the family's wishes. In Oregon, medical professionals can assist in voluntary suicides. The list goes on.

In America, we condemn those who would save the life of someone like Terri Schiavo, while in the same breath we applaud those who would save the life of one of God's lesser creatures. We are truly a schizophrenic people.

Is God pleased by such conduct? Judging by the Bible's unmistakable lessons, we will most certainly find out in the years to come.

Shammah is one of my favorite people in the Old Testament. 2 Samuel 23:11-12 tells how Shammah took a stand in a time of crisis. He not only stood alone but he also stood in the middle of the field. He fought for a field of peas because they were God's peas. Because Shammah took a stand for God, he was victorious over the Philistines.

For what are you willing to fight?

Christians need to develop a militant prayer life in order to face the daily assault against us. English philosopher Edmund Burke said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." History shows that when the church is silent, immorality and evil grow. May we commit ourselves to developing a militant prayer life. By our actions we will impact our communities, our state, our nation, and the uttermost parts of the world.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has launched a prayer website. The address is www.mbc.org/prayer/. On this website you will learn about Covering Mississippi in Prayer. You can download the Prayer Resource Guide which has a wealth of information. It has a list of prayer coordinators for each association, as well as the date and time of the 2011 Associational Prayer Rallies.

Begin today to develop a militant prayer life. Christians must have a sense of urgency and commitment to prayer. Evil is on the rise and we need to be on our knees crying out to the Lord.

Christians cannot be silent any longer.

GUEST OPINION:



More than lip service

By Michael Weeks, pastor
Pleasant Hill Church
Olive Branch

175th
Mississippi Baptist Convention



Covering Mississippi
in Prayer

Facebook officials stunned at child porn on network

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Facebook houses a subculture dedicated to trafficking child pornography and interacting with potential victims, according to an investigative report by FoxNews.com.

The social network site says it is doing all it can to keep pedophile materials from being displayed, but the news organization found plenty of suggestive and potentially illegal photographs of children on the website.

"Where kids play, predators prey. Predators and pedophiles are taking advantage of this site to target children, swap child pornography, and share their exploits," Donna Rice Hughes, president of Enough Is Enough, said in response to the report.

"It is entirely unacceptable that Facebook has allowed this content to surface on its site, and I fear this is only the tip of the iceberg."

After uncovering the subculture of child pornography on Facebook, FoxNews.com spent 90 minutes on the phone with two Facebook executives, including the company's chief security

officer, leading them click-by-click through what they found.

The executives were "dumbfounded, unaware of, and unable to explain the extremely graphic content on the site," FoxNews.com reported Oct. 21. They were shocked that their filters had failed, and later some of the material was blocked but much of it remained available to the public.

"We're constantly looking to improve our filter system," Joe Sullivan, Facebook's chief security officer, said. "As we get more information and tactics, we'll use that to inform our system to make it even better."

Displaying child pornography is against Facebook's terms of use, and Facebook's filter system utilizes a list of keywords from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. One challenge in blocking all illicit material, the company said, is that some keywords that child pornographers use have double meaning and are harmless in some cases.

"Some terms on these lists, including code words and acronyms, have multiple

meanings, which makes it difficult to block them upfront without also preventing legitimate uses," Facebook spokesman Simon Axten said.

"We do a careful evaluation of each term and consider both the potential for abuse and the frequency with which the term is used in other contexts when making decisions on whether to block or flag," Axten said.

Hemanshu Nigam, co-chairman of President Obama's Online Safety Technology Working Group, told FoxNews.com that the mass of pedophile content on Facebook would have been rooted out if the company were doing its job properly.

"The fact that Facebook missed the most basic terms in the terminology of child predators suggests that they've taken a checkbox approach instead of implementing real solutions to help real problems facing children online," Nigam said.

Hughes, of Enough Is Enough, said the investigation underscores the fact that parents must be involved when

their children use Facebook. A world of dangerous, exploitative content is just a few clicks away from any unsuspecting or curious teenager, she said.

"Over the past 10 years, we have seen a sort of perfect storm scenario emerge for Internet-initiated sexual crime against children," Hughes said. "Never before have predators and pedophiles been able to hold a town hall together to share their exploits and encourage this type of horrific behavior, but now, through sites like Facebook, they can do just that."

"We find that these individuals are often at the cutting edge of technology, they have easy access to child pornography and to children, and law enforcement, the technology industry and parents are often left in the dust, which is why we focus on reaching those parents and educating about prevention," Hughes said.

Enough Is Enough provides guidance for parents called Internet Safety Rules 'N Tools, online at internetsafety101.org, including such tips as:

- Establish an ongoing dialogue and keep lines of communication open.
- Supervise use of all Internet-enabled devices.
- Know your child's online activities and friends.
- Regularly check the online communities your children use, such as social networking and gaming sites, to see what information they are posting.
- Supervise the photos and videos your kids post and send online.

- Discourage the use of webcams and mobile video devices.
- Teach your children how to protect personal information posted online and to follow the same rules with respect to the personal information of others.

"Parents have to remain alert," Hughes said.

COLLEGE NEWS

STAFF CHANGES

1. **Highland Church, Lauderdale County Association**, has called Corey Fontan as associate pastor. He was previously student minister at Westwood Church, Meridian. Shown are Fontan, his wife Kim, and son Jace. Carl White, senior pastor.



MS POSITIONS

STAFF POSITION ENTERPRISE Baptist Church in Enterprise, MS is accepting resumes for a Full-time Minister of Students. Please send resumes to: enterprisebaptist@att.net OR Enterprise Baptist Church C/O Minister of Students Search P.O. Box 186 Enterprise, MS 39330

GLENDALE BAPTIST IN GLEN, MS is accepting resumes for the Bivocational position of Minister of Music and Students, requiring 20-25 hrs. per week. Send Resumes to: Personnel Committee, 2484 Hwy 72 East, Glen, MS 38846."

WEBSTER COUNTY BAPTIST Association has part-time Director of Missions position available. Send resumes and inquiries to: Rev. Charles E. "Buddy" Pepper 433 Hunters Run Road Mantee, MS 39751

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH IN Senatobia MS is seeking a part-time Minister of Students to work with Youth and College age. If interested, please email resume to pastorhbc@bell-south.net

GRACE FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST Church of Hatley Mississippi is currently accepting resumes for a bivocational or part time Youth Minister. Please send resume (2 pages maximum), including references, to bro-danny@msn.com. Please indicate "Resume" in subject line.



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1. **Mississippi College** recognized Kenneth B. Weathersby as Alumnus of the Year during a dinner held during the university's homecoming celebration. Weathersby is the vice president of the Church Planting Group of

the North American Mission Board. Shown are Burn Page, chair for MC's Department of Christian Studies, Weathersby, and Wayne Van Horn, dean for MC's School of Christian Studies and the Arts.



1. Page, Weathersby, and Van Horn

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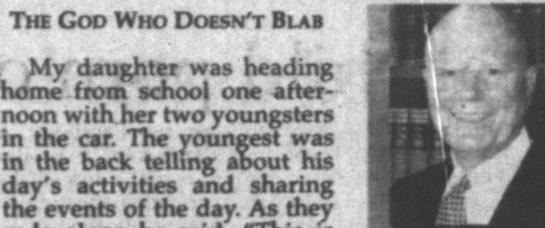
My daughter was heading home from school one afternoon with her two youngsters in the car. The youngest was in the back telling about his day's activities and sharing the events of the day. As they rode along he said, "This is not my pencil." He held up a pencil that he had been writing with and his mother said, "Well, whose is it?" He replied, "Well, it belongs to the school." She asked, "What are you doing with it?" He said, "Well, I just brought it with me but nobody knows it or saw me bring it."

At this point in the conversation, his older, more mature teenage sister entered into the dialogue. She said, "Well somebody must know." He said, "No they don't! Nobody saw me bring it." She insisted, "Oh, yes they did." Then she dropped the big theological bomb on him. "God saw you and He knows what you did." Things got quiet and then his big eyes popped open and he said, "Well, that is okay if He knows it. He won't tell anybody." The older sister commented to her mother, "Where did we go wrong with this child?"

In a sense, one of the wonderful things is that both kids are right. God is looking and sees everything we do and though He knows He does not blab to everybody. You may remember the character that was on TV called Aunt Blabby. She has too many kinfolks both male and female who live, breathe, and walk among us. Some of them even go to church. Throughout the Bible the Scripture refers to the fact that God sees us and the writer of Hebrews so clearly states it in chapter 4, verse 13.

Clue: T = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Second Timothy Four: One



Directions

**Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board**

"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight, but all things are naked and open unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." God sees and knows.

Most of the time when we think about God knowing everything, we think about God seeing the wrong that we do, but that is not always the case, for sometimes He sees a person of love, grace, and commitment to Him like in Genesis 6:8. "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Noah was not perfect but his heart was turned toward God. Even though God sees and knows everything about us, He loves us and is determined to reach out to us in grace. That wonderful verse in Numbers 32:23b that says,

"Be sure your sins will find you out," used to bother me. As a youngster I thought what the verse said was what the preacher was implying—that probably my mother, the teacher, my dad, or somebody was going to find out when I did something wrong. They may well find out but this verse says that our sins find us and that is absolutely and always true.

Taking a pencil, telling a lie, or having an evil and ulterior motive that cannot be seen does not mean that you will not escape from the sin finding you. It can and it will. The residue of that sin that brings pain, guilt, isolation, and fear

will show up in your life. Thanks be to God He does not go around telling everybody everything that He knows. He is not a gossip or a talebearer and He does not have to unveil every rotten thing about you or every gross thing about me. He knows and He wants to forgive and restore us. That is why the Scripture says so beautifully that when we come to Him He forgives us and He casts our sins as far as the east is from the west and buries them in the depths of the sea to remember them against us no more. Glory be to Him that we are set free from the burden of the crushing reality and consequences of our sin. Thank you Lord!

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

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• Houseparent Couple
• Case Manager

Contact Randy Luper at 1.870.367.5358 or r.luper@abchomes.org

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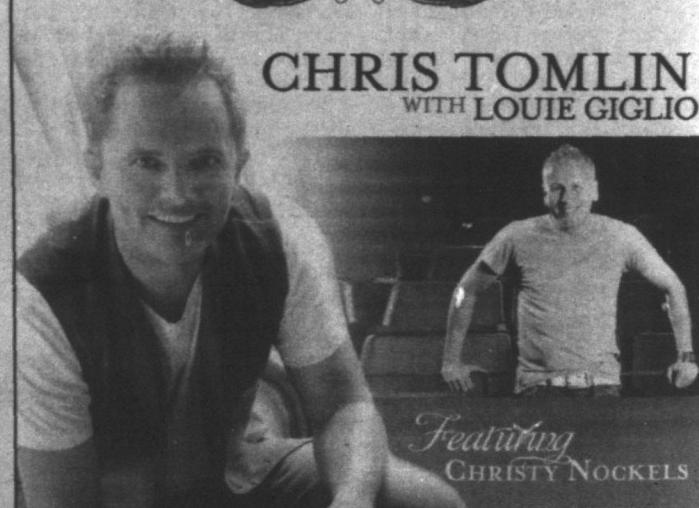
REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

- Leesburg Church, Morton: Homecoming, Nov. 7, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Ricky Kennedy, speaker; Jeff Jones, music.
- Evansville Church, Coldwater: Homecoming, Nov. 14, 10 a.m.; food and fellowship following service; Calvin Price, speaker; In House, music.
- Woodland Church, Columbus: Revival, Nov. 7 - 10; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Bobby Douglas, speaker; Andy Cummings, music.
- First Church, Lauderdale: Homecoming, Nov. 14; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Ed Falgout, speaker; Susan Caynor, music.
- Providence Church, Cleveland: Revival, Nov. 14 - 17; Sun., 11 a.m. and 5:45 p.m., followed by finger foods; Mon. - Wed., supper, 5 - 6 p.m.; services, 6:30 p.m.; J.B. Hayes, Jr., speaker/pastor; Richard Webster, music.
- Fairview Church, Indianola: 137th anniversary, Nov. 21; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Stacey Blake, presiding; George Lipe, music.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



12. Black and Johnson

12. Salem Church, Toomsburg, presented John Johnson with a 50 year pin for perfect attendance in Sunday School. Shown are Melody Black and Johnson.

as deacons Sept. 19. Shown are Pratt, Bane, Harrison, and Boone.

13. First Church, Woodland, recently ordained Michael Holcomb, their new pastor. Shown are Tommy Inmon, Holcomb, Harvey Sewell and David Nelson.

14. First Church, Winona, ordained Allan Pratt, Darren Bane, Louie Harrison, and Alan Boone

15. Terry Richards, Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, has been named statewide coordinator for Church Lay Renewal by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and has been commissioned as a Mission Service Corps volunteer by the North American Mission Board. Shown are Richards and pastor Kelly Mitchell.



14. First Church, Winona



13. Holcomb ordination



15. Richards and Mitchell

Seminary working to expand Dead Sea Scrolls program

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — In a convergence of ancient Scripture with the latest in photographic technology, Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth worked with the West Semitic Research Project this fall to prepare for the study and publication of its Dead Sea Scrolls collection and other artifacts.

A workshop hosted by the seminary's Tandy Institute for Archaeology featured a team from the West Semitic Research Project at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, who specialize in producing high-definition images of ancient texts and artifacts.

The scholars made images of Southwestern's collection of Dead Sea Scrolls fragments as well as some artifacts from the seminary's Carlson Cuneiform Collection.

"The West Semitic Research Project is one of the best for the digital imaging of ancient manuscripts, particularly Dead Sea Scrolls fragments," said Steven Ortiz, associate professor of archaeology and biblical backgrounds at Southwestern and director of the Charles D. Tandy Archaeology Museum.

"Naturally, as the Tandy Institute for Archaeology prepares for the scholarly publication of Southwestern Seminary's Dead Sea Scroll fragments, we are starting the process by first digitally documenting these rare and valuable texts," Ortiz said.

In January, the seminary announced its acquisition of three Dead Sea Scrolls fragments and an ancient pen discovered with the

scrolls. This collection, containing biblical passages from Exodus, Leviticus, and Daniel, makes Southwestern one of only a handful of institutions of higher education in the United States to own Dead Sea Scrolls fragments.

Gary Loveless, founder and chief executive officer of Square Mile Energy in Houston, provided the lead gift for the purchase of the scrolls. Three more fragments were added this fall through a gift by an anonymous donor.

Bruce Zuckerman, director of the West Semitic Research Project and associate professor of Hebrew Bible at the University of Southern California, said Ortiz and others at Southwestern "have been a model of cooperation with us."

In a lecture on recent imaging technology during the Sept. 24-25 sessions at the Texas seminary, Zuckerman explained the multiple benefits of specialized imaging technology for the study of ancient texts. Infrared photography, for example, can reveal writing on a scroll that had otherwise disappeared because of its age.

In the past, scholars primarily could examine ancient texts only with the naked eye. As a result, damaged or faded texts provided little information about the past. With the latest technology, however, scholars can re-analyze the research of the past.

"For those people who are your age and who are interested in getting into the field of ancient studies, there is no better time than now," Zuckerman told Southwestern students. "One of my colleagues said to me, 'You know what this means? It means we have to do everything over.'

"Wouldn't it be fun to remake a field of study, especially a field of study relevant to the Bible, and be the ones to dictate how the games are going to be played in the future?"

Ortiz noted that the interactive nature of the archaeology workshop allowed students "to learn the cutting-edge technology and methodology for the research of artifacts and manuscripts."

"It is just amazing to see what capabilities there are at the present," said Adam Dodd, a student in the master of theology program and vice president of the seminary's student archaeological society.

Dodd said he benefitted from the workshop not only in observing the team from the West Semitic Research Project, but also because the team produced an image that will help with his master's thesis.

For his thesis, Dodd is analyzing a medieval manuscript that contains a portion of the Hebrew text from the Book of Genesis. The manuscript, however, is stained and the Hebrew text is overlaid by a later Coptic text.

Dodd said the new images of the manuscript will help him examine the text more closely and come to more accurate and confident conclusions.

While the manuscript will not change the field of biblical scholarship, Dodd said, "it is perfect for someone who wants to learn the practice and refine their skills in evaluating different aspects of manuscripts. It is perfect for a young student to cut his teeth on."



SPECIAL LESSON — Marilyn Lundberg (left), associate director of the West Semitic Research Project at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, instructs Southwestern Seminary student Marcella Barbosa in digitizing an image of an ancient document. (BP photo courtesy of SWBTS/Nic Hervey)

JUST FOR THE RECORD



4. Mars Hill Church, Summit



5. Antioch Church, Union



6. The Parkers



7. Beam licensing

1. County Line Church, Ovett, is hosting a fall festival Nov. 6, 6 – 8 p.m., featuring space jumps, slides, cake walks, face painting, games, and food.

2. Eureka Church, Sandhill, is hosting Hosanna Quartet at a gospel singing Nov. 6, 6 p.m., including food and fellowship.

3. Sandy Hook Church, Sandy Hook, is hosting a fall festival Nov. 7, noon – 4:30 p.m., with smoked chicken plates, cake walks, cake auction, silent auction, archery, and games for children.

4. Mars Hill Church, Summit, ordained Webb Umberger and Mike Sharp as deacons and activated Gene Marasalis as deacon Oct. 3. Shown are Annette Umberger, Umberger, Sharp, Lee Sharp, Becky Marasalis, and Marasalis.

5. Antioch Church, Union, took 20 children grades 1 – 6 to Kids in Motion at Garaywa Aug. 21. Shown are the participants.

6. New Hope Church, Foxworth, had a reception Oct. 10 in appreciation of pastor Tim Parker and his family – wife Brenda, daughter Haleigh, and son Joshua. Shown are the Parkers.

7. First Church, Pearl, recently licensed Chris Beam to the gospel ministry. He is part-time youth director at the church. Shown are Logan, Michelle, and Chris Beam, and pastor Jeff Buchanan.

8. Southside Church, Aberdeen, ordained Bobby Hawkins as deacon Aug. 29. Shown are Hawkins and pastor Dennis Sullivan.

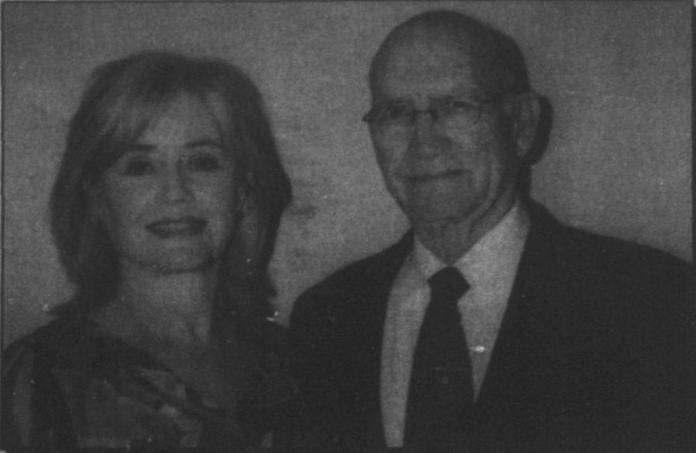
9. Stonewall Church, Shivers, honored pastor Bobby G. Jones Sept. 2 upon his retirement from the church after 50 years. Shown are his wife, Brenda, and Jones.

10. A pro-life group from Antioch Church, Union, joined with other pro-lifers Oct. 3 at the courthouse in Philadelphia for Respect Life Sunday in a human life chain. Shown are the participants.

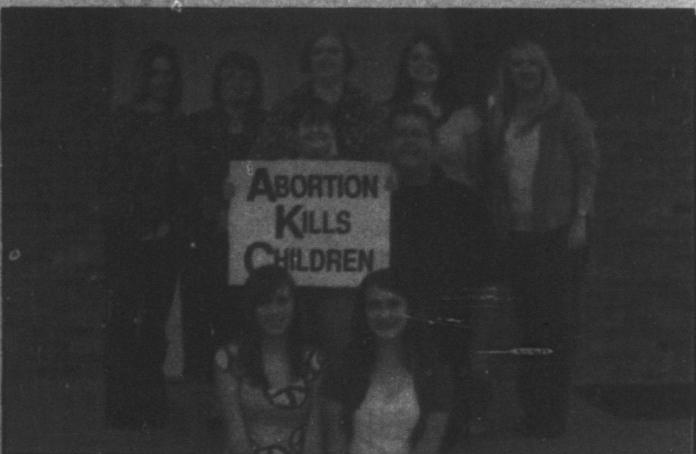
11. Burns Church, Smith County, held a baby dedication Oct. 17. Shown are pastor Jacob Niblett, his wife Vivian, and daughter Ayanna Niblett.



8. Hawkins ordination



9. The Joneses



10. Antioch Church, Union



11. The Nibletts



NAMB to transfer pair of New Orleans ministries

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The Rachel Sims Baptist Mission and the Carver Baptist Center, now owned and operated by the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board (NAMB), will close on Dec. 31. Effective Jan. 1, ownership of both properties will transfer to the New Orleans Baptist Association.

"The closing of the two ministry centers and the property transfer reflects NAMB's process over the last 12 years of giving NAMB-owned properties to local Baptist associations or churches," said Richard Leach, the mission board's team leader for servant/ministry evangelism in Alpharetta, Ga.

The New Orleans Baptist Association (NOBA), formerly the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans is an association of 107 Southern Baptist churches in the New Orleans area.

"For several years, dating back before Hurricane Katrina, our three entities — NOBA, NAMB, and LBC — have discussed a new Southern Baptist ministry strategy for New Orleans," Leach said.

Under the 2020 Vision strategy adopted by NOBA in 2008, NOBA, LBC, and NAMB remain partners in the "rebuilding of New Orleans for the glory of God." The strategy agreement includes the transfer of assets from NAMB to NOBA.

"The Baptist community in New Orleans is grateful for the historic partnership we have shared with NAMB," said C. Duane McDaniels, executive director of the New Orleans Baptist Association. "From the founding of the SBC in 1845 — when the Domestic Mission Board [now NAMB] was commissioned to reach the great city of New Orleans — to more recent years when Southern Baptist volunteers through NAMB poured in by the thousands to help rebuild the city after Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans has been the focus of our cooperative efforts to share the Gospel."

"Now, five years post-Katrina, we are turning the page to a new chapter. Building on the foundation that has been laid, we are looking to the future, excited about the possibilities for partnering with NAMB, LBC and churches across the SBC in a newly envisioned mission/rebuild strategy to reach New Orleans through church planting, compassion ministries and volunteer mobilization."

"There is yet much to be done in this city, and we believe our very best days are ahead of us," McDaniels said.

The Carver Center, established in 1951, is located at 3701 Annunciation St., while the Rachel Sims Baptist Mission, founded in 1910, is located at 729 2nd St., a mile and a half from each other on the edge of the city's Garden District.

Both centers are primarily involved in after-school ministries for children.

Leach said Larry Miguez, director of both of the centers, and Linda Middlebrooks, director of programs at Rachel Sims, will retire under the current retirement incentive now being offered to all NAMB employees age 54 and older with at least five years' service.

Jennifer Fannin, assistant director at the Carver Center, will have the option of accepting a severance package from NAMB.

"Words cannot express how much we appreciate and applaud the dedicated Christian service of Larry, Linda, and Jennifer," Leach said. "Only God knows how many lives they touched and reached for Jesus Christ during their many years of service."

A third Southern Baptist ministry center in New Orleans, Baptist Friendship House at 813 Elysian Fields Ave., was founded in 1944 and will continue to operate as a ministry for homeless women with children.

The Baptist Friendship House is a ministry that responds to the growing



CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP — The Rachel Sims Baptist Mission in New Orleans will close Dec. 31 and be transferred to the New Orleans Baptist Association on Jan. 1. The mission, founded in 1910, is one of many such centers the North American Mission Board has turned over to local Baptist associations and churches. A second ministry in New Orleans, Carver Baptist Center, also will close, while a third, Baptist Friendship House, will remain open. (BP photo)

number of displaced, homeless women with children in need of food, overnight lodging, medical assistance, education, and job training.

Under NOBA's new 2020 Vision strategy, the center's ministry may be expanded.

Kay Bennett, the center's director since 1997, will continue in that position with her salary paid by NAMB, although she will be under joint supervision of NOBA and NAMB effective Jan. 1.

"In the homeless women's ministry, our program has ministered to 27 women and their children each night since January of this year," Bennett said. "In addition, our food ministries have

provided food to 76,192 people during the first three quarters of this year."

Bennett said, "One reason Southern Baptists created the old Home Mission Board was to evangelize and minister in New Orleans, and we're going to continue to do ministry in New Orleans. Here at Friendship House, we will continue to help people rebuild their lives — to continue to minister to homeless and abused women and their children."

"As NAMB and as the Home Mission Board, we've enjoyed many decades of ministry in New Orleans," Leach said. "NAMB will continue its historic partnership with NOBA and the churches of New Orleans for years to come."

Bhutan believer jailed for showing Christian films to villagers

NEW DELHI (BP) — A court in Bhutan has sentenced a Christian to three years in prison for "attempting to promote civil unrest" by screening films on Christianity in the pre-

dominantly Buddhist country. A local court in Gelephu, Bhutan, handed down the Oct. 6 conviction against Prem Singh Gurung, a 40-year-old ethnic Nepalese citizen from

south Bhutan, according to the government-run daily Kuensel.

Gurung was arrested in July after local residents complained that he was showing Christian films in two villages. Gurung invited villagers to watch Nepali movies; between each feature, he showed films on Christianity.

Government attorneys could not prove "beyond reasonable doubt" that Gurung promoted civil unrest, the daily reported, and therefore "he was charged with an attempt to promote civil unrest."

Gurung also was charged with violation of the Bhutan Information, Communication and Media Act of 2006. Sections 105(1) and 110 of the law require that authorities examine all films before public screening.

A Christian from Bhutan's capital told Compass Direct News that the conviction of Gurung disturbed area villagers. While Gurung has the right to appeal, it remained unclear if he had the resources to do so.

The two villages, Gonggaon and Simkharkha, are virtually inaccessible. It can take from 24

and 48 hours to reach them from the nearest road. "Both villages do not have electricity," Kuensel reported, "but Prem Singh Gurung, with the help of some people, is believed to have carried a projector and a generator to screen the movies in the village."

More than 75% of Bhutan's 683,407 people are Buddhist, mainly from western and eastern parts of the country. Hindus, mostly ethnic Nepalese from southern Bhutan, are estimated to be around 22% of the population.

It is also estimated that around 6,000 Bhutanese, mostly from the south, are Christian in this landlocked nation between India and China. However, their presence is not officially acknowledged in the country. As a result, they practice their faith from the confines of their homes, with no Christian institution officially registered.

Buddhism is the state religion in Bhutan, and the government is mandated to protect its culture and religion according to the 2008 constitution. As in other parts of south Asia, people

in Bhutan mistakenly believe that Christianity is a Western faith and that missionaries give monetary benefits to convert people from other religions.

An opinion piece in Kuensel on Oct. 17 by a Bhutanese woman from New York who described herself as "an aspiring Buddhist" condemned both the conviction of Gurung, though repeating a mistaken view of Christian "tactics."

"Although we may not like the tactics used by the Christians to proselytize or 'sell' their religion to impoverished and vulnerable groups, let's not lose sight of the bigger picture, in terms of religious tolerance, and what constitutes 'promoting civil unrest,'" Sonam Ongmo wrote.

"If we truly want to establish ourselves as a well-functioning democracy, with equal rights for all, let's start with one of the fundamental ones — the right to choose one's faith. We have nothing to worry about Buddhism losing ground to Christianity, but we will if, as a predominantly Buddhist state, we start to deny people the right to their faith."



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Christians only now returning to devastated region

ORISSA, India (BP) — Christians in the Kandhamal district of India's Orissa state will not soon forget the atrocities of August 2008, when angry Hindu mobs made a bloodbath of their people and destroyed their homes.

Today, thanks to Southern Baptist giving, these Christians are looking toward their future with hope.

Hindu extremists blamed Christians for the assassination of a Hindu leader in Orissa on Aug. 23, 2008. Although Maoist rebels, an extreme Marxist political group, claimed responsibility for the assassination, Hindu extremists killed about 70 Christians and destroyed 4,640 houses, 252 churches, and 13 educational institutions, according to news stories published by Baptist Press, Compass Direct News, and local sources.

Christians fled from their villages, seeking refuge first in the jungle and then in displaced-person camps that the government opened for them. For a long time, Christians would not return to their homes because they feared further backlash from Hindu extremists.

"Some of the Kandhamal victims of the religious violence have enough courage that they are returning home," said Southern Baptist humanitarian worker Cole Elbridge (not his real name), "but their ravaged homes cannot be lived in and the money they received in compensation from the government has been used up over the two years they were in relief camps, so they are back in their villages but still without permanent shelter."

Soon, however, Christians in Kandhamal will have new homes after two years of staying in camps and then living in makeshift tents, mud huts, or on the verandas of relatives' homes. The government camps are now closed.

Southern Baptist humanitarian workers, national partners, and the Kandhamal Baptist Convention are partnering with Kandhamal Christians to rebuild the community. They plan to build homes for 180 families in the area using \$170,696 from Southern Baptist relief funds channeled through Baptist Global Response (BGR), an international relief and development organization.

"Field personnel are able to rebuild homes because of Southern Baptists' faithful giving to the General

Relief Fund over the years," said Francis Horton, who with his wife Angie directs work in Central and South Asia for BGR.

The general relief funds are providing bricks, tin, cement, doors, and windows for the Christians to rebuild their homes on their original foundations, Elbridge said. The average household size ranges from six to eight people, so as many as 1,440 people will benefit.

"We hope to achieve the building of 'houses of peace,' which will offer peace and hope to communities divided by religious strife," Elbridge said. "Our goal is to also encourage these refugees to reach out with the hope of the Gospel to the Hindu communities who

attacked them, destroyed their homes, and even killed many of them two years earlier."

Building began Oct. 1 and will take about one year to complete, Elbridge said.

Southern Baptist humanitarian worker Adrien Telford (not his real name) and Indian partners recently surveyed the land, and together they are supervising the building project.

Last year, \$120,000 from the Southern Baptist



ALL THAT'S LEFT — A skeleton of a building burned during the devastating 2008 persecution of Christians in India's Orissa state stands deserted still today in Kandhamal district. Christian residents are returning with plans to rebuild, due partly to Southern Baptist rebuilding efforts. (BP photo)

World Hunger Fund provided relief to 8,000 families in the Kandhamal area. Christian worker Dwight Mabury (not his real name) said he and a team of Indian partners distributed cooking utensils, rice, lentils, blankets, and clothing.

"They have only burned our houses, but they could not touch us," one of the persecuted Christians in Orissa said. "Today, God has given us everything, and praise God for that."

Observers criticize direction of White House faith-based office

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Obama administration has come under criticism for using its faith-based office to push the president's political agenda.

"The government — and especially those who lead the faith-based initiative — ought to do everything they can to avoid the appearance and reality of politicizing the initiative," said Stanley Carlson-Thies, a former staff member with President Bush's faith-based office.

A conference call hosted by President Obama and Josh DuBois, director of the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, has sparked most of the controversy. During the Sept. 21 call, Obama and DuBois encouraged thousands of faith-based organizations to stand behind the controversial health care law enacted earlier this year.

"I think all of you can be really important validators and trusted resources for friends and neighbors to help explain what's now available to them," Obama said during the call.

DuBois told the faith-based representatives, "Get the word out there, get information out there. Make use of the resources we've described on this call: the website, door hangers, one-pagers and so forth. We've got work to do. These protections, our families need to know these things."

Staffers from the Bush-era faith-based office charged the White House with using the initiative as a way to encourage faith-based communities to embrace Obama's political agenda.

In an op-ed for The Wall Street Journal, Jim Towey, former director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives under Bush, wrote, "Imagine what would have happened had I proposed that [Bush] use that office to urge thousands of religious leaders to become 'validators' of the Iraq war."

Carlson-Thies, now president of the Institutional Religious Freedom Alliance, called the Obama faith-based office's response to health care reform a "cheerleading effort." In an electronic newsletter for faith-based organizations, Carlson-Thies wrote, "[Faith-based organizations, no matter how much they collaborate with government, must avoid becoming simple 'transmission belts' of the government's views." The Institutional Religious Freedom Alliance works to protect the rights of faith-based organizations.

Also in response to the conference call, some religious leaders seemed to agree that using the office to promote certain policies is regrettable.

"It's unfortunate that the Obama administration has chosen to hijack the faith-based initiative program for political purposes," said Barrett Duke, vice president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

In an effort to counter the criticisms, DuBois directly addressed the reaction to the conference call. In a blog post on the faith-based office's website, he defended the White House's decision to involve the faith community in supporting health care.

"President Obama has a different vision for our office, one where we partner with a range of organizations not only financially but also civically to help better understand the challenges we face and work together to solve them. That includes reaching out to religious leaders about the health of our communities," DuBois said.

The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, originally established by Bush early in his presidency, was formed primarily to aid faith-based organizations in competing for federal funds to provide social services. This, however, produced criticism from the political left, which said the office was just a ploy by the administration to continue gaining support from

the religious community; critics also suggested it blatantly crossed the line of separation of church and state.

When Obama took office in 2009, many believed he would shut down the office entirely; however, he chose to keep it. Renaming it the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, Obama set out to create an office that would encourage discussion among various religious leaders and focus on specific policy issues.

Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee and a member of the advisory council for Obama's faith-based office for one year beginning in early 2009, said Obama's office and Bush's original office share many of the same goals, but the new faith-based office has additional responsibilities. Obama's

office not only reaches out to neighborhood and faith-based groups to help them supply social services but, unlike the office under Bush, it provides policy recommendations.

"The objective of the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships was to expand the work of the Bush-era Faith-Based Office by including religious leaders to help provide policy recommendations to the president," Page told Baptist Press.

The new office's agenda consists of issues such as inter-religious dialogue, responsible fatherhood, poverty intervention and environmental stewardship. In trying to achieve certain goals in these areas, the group has made several policy recommendations to the president — including some regarding health care.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

The Case for the Christian Life: Why the Christian Life Is Better

John 14:15-18, 27-31a; 15:1-16

By Rick Henson

I met Senator Trent Lott recently. He sat next to us at a restaurant, and my brother and I introduced ourselves. He already knew my mother, who was with us. He spoke with us for a minute and was very friendly. I remember it well, but he won't remember much about me, nor should he. I met him, but I do not have a relationship with him.

I was a spectator at the Viking Classis in Madison last month. Twelve PGA golfers signed my cap, which now hangs in my office. I spoke to each after their round on Saturday, and asked how each played that day. Each told me about his round and I encouraged each as they signed my cap. I have their signatures and conversed with twelve

golfers, some of whom are quite famous, yet I do not have a relationship with any of them.

I do, however, have a relationship with the Creator of the Universe, the Lord of lords and the King of kings; Jesus Christ. He walks with me and He talks with me. Jesus guides me through challenges, comforts me through difficulties, teaches me what I need to know, and corrects me when I do what I should not do. He is my friend, my Savior, my Redeemer.

I cannot imagine living without my relationship with Jesus Christ. He loved me when I was lost, saved me when I repented and called on Him, and actually uses me to accomplish His will from time to time. He knows all there is to know about me, including



Henson

all my wrong thoughts and my worst actions; yet He still loves me. Jesus is my Lord and He is my friend.

In John 15:14-16 Jesus said, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for

the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain," (KJV). When we know Christ as Savior, and obey Him, we get what God can do in our lives and churches. When we disobey, we get what we can do in our lives and churches.

When we each receive Christ, God places His presence in our hearts. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit a comforter in John 14. The word translated comforter is the Greek word,

paraklatos. This word describes one who runs alongside a runner in a marathon to encourage him and give him food and water. Jesus chose this word for the Holy Spirit, who will be with us for the long race, and will nourish our souls. This Comforter is only given to those who know the Lord. Jesus said in the same passage that those who are unsaved can neither see this Comforter nor receive Him.

What a blessing: the Creator of everything wants to guide, comfort, teach and correct us. Twice in John 14 Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled," (KJV). The word translated troubled also means to stir up, disturb, or throw into confusion. Jesus wants His followers to live a peaceful life. Jesus offers us His peace, according to John 14:27. Even through challenges and difficulties, Jesus promises His presence, which is the source of our peace. The peace that Jesus gives is not the absence of problems, but the presence of the Savior.

Jesus added in John 15:11-16, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full," (KJV). Most people seek happiness, which depends on a happening. Jesus offers joy, which depends on Him. He paid for our joy. Jesus said in John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends," (KJV). We can have joy because He gave His life. Hebrews 12:2 teaches that believers should be always, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross," (KJV). The joy set before Jesus was the completed work of God on the other side of Calvary.

I may not know a Senator personally, nor a PGA golfer, but I do know the Lord Jesus. Whom do you know? Only Jesus can give the peace and joy you desire. Remember, it's who you know, both here and hereafter.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Being Careful

Ephesians 5: 15-21

By Melleen Moore

The lesson title 'being careful' brings to mind caution. What cautions are we to heed? What are the warnings? Paul addresses using time wisely, knowing God's will, embracing the Holy Spirit and relating to one another. In grammar, 'be' is a helping verb. It is used to complete the verb and to call for action. Each heading in the lesson begins with 'be'. Suggesting that an action needs to take place on the part of the believer.

Be Wise with Your Time

Ephesians 5: 15-16

Paul says "Pay careful attention" (Ephesians 5: 15, HCSB) which means more than just seeing or observing. The King James Version uses the phrase to "walk circumspectly"

(Ephesians 5: 15) meaning accurately with great care. The believer's daily walk is to be taken seriously with precise care—wise walking. To accomplish God's purpose the believer must make time count with high standards and wise actions. Time suggest a definite fixed allocation. In the sense of this text, it is thought to mean man's lifetime. There should be a sense of urgency to seize every opportunity to reach the lost even in evil days—days of persecution.

Be Aware of God's Will

Ephesians 5: 17

The word 'aware' engages the believer's mind—to acknowledge. Knowing God's will often seems distant and difficult. God grants the believer wisdom to know His will through time



Moore

with Him—reading His Word, praying, praise, worship and meditation. Knowing leads to understanding God's will. He gave us the ability to think and has expectations for us to use our minds for His purpose. The believer can conclude being aware of God's will includes quality time with Him, a desire to understand and using the thinking abilities given us.

Be Filled with the Spirit

Ephesians 5: 18-20

Paul expresses a warning about being drunk with wine which causes reckless behavior. Immediately, he gives a direction to be filled with the spirit as it leads believers to walk in harmony. The idea is a continuing process of the Holy Spirit living within the believer. With the indwelling of the Holy Spirit comes joy shown by speaking psalms, making music and singing. A natural response to

joy is a thankful heart—always and for everything. Paul directs this praise to "God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5: 20, HCSB). What a difference being filled with the Holy Spirit makes from reckless behavior to joy and thanksgiving. William Barclay (The Daily Study Bible Series: The Letters to the Galatians and Ephesians) draws a picture of the contrast using this scripture. Gatherings of the pagans would likely include 'drunkenness' 'being filled with wine' and the Christian gathering would experience joy 'being filled with the Holy Spirit.' The early church he pictures as a 'singing' church with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. In more detail this picture shows a 'thankful' church for all God's love, salvation and a consciousness of being in the fold of God.

Be Subject to One Another

Ephesians 5: 21

Jesus set the example as He submitted to His Father. In the temple at the age of 12, He

needed to "be about His Father's business" (Luke 2:49, NKJV). As He faced the cross, He prayed "not as I will, but as You will" (Matthew 26:39, NKJV). Upon submission to God, being obedient, it is easier to submit to each other. Having a strong relationship with Jesus Christ is the key to submission. We are to be in harmony with one another in the body of Christ. Accountability is an easy word to say but sometimes difficult to keep. Choosing an accountability partner may be helpful to keep our focus on being obedient to God. William Barclay (The Daily Study Bible Series: The Letters to the Galatians and Ephesians) includes submission and respect for others in his picture of the early church. Seeing others in the light of Christ and recognizing the dignity of every man is applicable in the church today.

Moore is a member of Macedonia Church, Petal.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

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The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital prints are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

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All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

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THE VILLAGE VIEW



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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor with taste and respect those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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